

THE  
BOOK OF WORSHIP

[SHORT EDITION]

FOR

THE REFORMED CHURCH

IN

THE UNITED STATES

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PHILADELPHIA

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF THE  
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES  
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THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF THE  
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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NEW LITURGY

At the meeting of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States held at Dayton, Ohio, in May 1917, it was resolved: "That a committee of nine be appointed, three representing the constituency of the Eastern Theological Seminary, three the constituency of the Central Seminary, and three the constituency of the Mission House; the Professor of Liturgics in each of these Seminaries to be a member of this committee, to prepare a new Liturgy in accordance with Reformed principles, and report to the next General Synod." The committee accordingly was constituted of those whose names are subscribed to this Report.

At the meeting of the General Synod held at Reading, Pa., in May 1920, a partial Report was submitted. The present Report, lacking a few minor details, is substantially complete, and is submitted to your reverend body with the hope that it may receive your approval. The book is the product of much prayer and painstaking toil. Its preparation has involved the careful and unprejudiced study of all former Orders of Worship approved by our Church, as well as the comparative study of the various Liturgies now used by other Christian bodies. Its familiar tone gives proof of the retention of the essential features of our devotional heritage. The numerous changes which have been made, the committee believes to be fully justified by the enlarged needs and changed conditions of our time. The choice of alternates for the Lord's Day and Holy Communion Services, and the enlarged collection of Prayers for Special Occasions, it is hoped may satisfy the growing demand for greater flexibility in the use of forms for public worship. The many modifications of Forms hitherto used by our Churches are partly due to requests for revision which have come from various sources. Every suggestion which has come to the committee has received careful consideration. The committee is especially indebted to Rev. Prof. C. Ernest Wagner, former Professor of English Literature in Franklin and Marshall College, for his kind co-operation in revising and correcting the proofs. It is gratifying to state that the Report has the unanimous approval of the committee, and that in all its meetings, notwithstanding the occasional struggles of diverse and conflicting opinions, the spirit of unity, fairness and mutual regard was maintained inviolate.

In presenting this Report the committee cherishes the hope that by the unifying power of the Holy Spirit and through closer fellowship in the pure and reverent worship of the sanctuary, and in the faithful service of our Lord, we may all come to share more fully in receiving and extending the blessings of His kingdom.

#### *Committee,*

JOHN C. BOWMAN,  
A. M. GLUCK,  
JAMES I. GOOD,  
CHARLES E. MILLER,  
E. A. HOFER,  
C. F. KRIETE,  
JOHN W. APPEL,  
D. I. PRUGH,  
F. J. BRANDT.

*General Synod, 1923.  
Hickory, N. C.*



## **Action of the General Synod, 1923**

**Hickory, N. C.**

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ITEM III—That General Synod hereby approves “The Book of Worship” prepared by the Liturgical Committee, with a few changes and additions, and heartily commends it to pastors, congregations and people for tentative use.

*Report of Special Committee.*

## **Action of the General Synod, 1926**

**Philadelphia, Pa.**

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ITEM II—That since “The Book of Worship” is now in form for final adoption, your Committee recommends it to your Reverend Body for final adoption and for voluntary use by our congregations.

ITEM III—That the General Synod authorize the publication of “The Book of Worship” and instruct the Liturgical Committee to prepare the copy and read the proof thereof.

*Report of Special Committee.*



## THE LORD'S DAY SERVICE

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Having taken his place, the congregation also standing, the minister shall begin the Service with this Sentence of Scripture:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved in the Lord: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us therefore humble ourselves before the throne of Almighty God, our heavenly Father, and confess our manifold sins and transgressions with lowly and contrite hearts, that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here all shall kneel and say:

Almighty and most merciful God our heavenly Father, we cast ourselves down before Thee under a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt. We have grievously sinned against Thee, in thought, in word, and in deed. We have come short of Thy glory. We have broken Thy commandments, and turned aside every one of us from the way of life. Yet now, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon Thee with penitent hearts; and for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Pardon our sins, and grant us Thy peace. Take away our guilt. Purify us, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, from all inward uncleanness; and make us able and willing to serve Thee in newness of life, to the glory of Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall stand and say:



Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who desireth not the death of the sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, and Who gave His only Son to be a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Or the following:

Hearken now unto the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all that repent and believe:

As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Unto as many of you, therefore, beloved brethren, as truly repent of your sins, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, with full purpose of new obedience, I announce and declare, by the authority and in the name of Christ, that your sins are forgiven in heaven, according to His promise in the Gospel, through the perfect merit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The congregation shall now stand and sing the Gloria in Excelsis, or a Chant, or a Hymn.

**M.** Praise ye the Lord:

**C.** The Lord's name be praised.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.



O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

The Scripture Lesson shall now be read, according to the order of the Church year, after which the congregation shall stand and sing the Canticle for the Day, or an appropriate Chant, or the Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Here the Apostles' Creed shall be recited:

I believe in God the Father Almighty: Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and the Life Everlasting. *Amen.*



The General Prayer shall now be offered, consisting of the Collect for the Day, the following Prayers, and any Special Prayers. On special days the Prayers for Special Occasions may take the place of the General Prayer. The foregoing order shall not preclude the use of Free Prayer.

M. The Lord be with you:

C. And with thy spirit.

M. Let us pray:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We praise Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us such due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may shew forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

God of all power and glory, who hast not appointed us unto wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, perfect and fulfil in us, we beseech Thee, the work of Thy redeeming mercy, that, being delivered more and more from our sins, we may be able to serve Thee in newness of life. Sanctify us in body, soul and spirit; and guide us evermore in the way of peace. Help us to overcome the world. Beat down Satan under our feet. Give us courage to confess Christ always, and patience to endure in his service unto the end; that, having finished



our course with joy we may rest in hope; and attain finally to the resurrection of the just, through the infinite merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, cause Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, to rest upon the Church, which He has purchased with His most precious blood. Illuminate her ministers with true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word. Send down the healthful dew of Thy grace upon all her congregations. Deliver her from false doctrine, heresy and schism; and clothe her with the beauty of holiness and peace. Establish and reveal Thy glory among all nations. By the tranquil working of Thy perpetual providence, confound and destroy all wicked devices formed against Thy holy Word, and bring in speedily the full victory of Thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, King of kings and Lord of lords, from whom proceedeth all power and dominion in heaven and on earth; most heartily we beseech Thee to look with favor upon Thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and all others in authority. Imbue them with the spirit of wisdom, goodness, and truth; and so rule their hearts, and bless their endeavors, that law and order, justice and peace may everywhere prevail. Preserve us from public calamities; from pestilence and famine; from war, privy conspiracy, and rebellion; but especially from national sins and corruption. Make us strong and great in the fear of God, and in the love of righteousness; so that being blessed of Thee, we may become a blessing to all



nations, to the praise of the glory of Thy grace through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we implore Thy mercy in behalf of all classes and conditions of men; that it may please Thee to visit them with Thy most compassionate help, according to their manifold necessities and wants; especially do we beseech Thee to have pity upon all widows and orphans; upon all prisoners and captives; upon all sick and dying persons; upon those who are desolate or sore afflicted in any way; and upon all such as are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Enable them to look unto Thee, O most merciful Father, and to call upon Thy name, that they may find Thee a present Saviour in their affliction and distress. And let it please Thee to deliver them, and raise them up in due time, giving them patience under all their sufferings, the rich comfort of Thy grace here below, and eternal rest with Thee in heaven; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Here special prayers may be offered, followed by the Lord's Prayer, in which the people shall join aloud:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

The Offering shall now be received, a Hymn sung, and the Sermon preached, after which the congregation shall stand and the minister shall say:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast caused



all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; accompany, we beseech Thee, with Thy heavenly benediction, the truth which has been preached unto us this day; that it may bring forth in our lives the peaceable fruits of righteousness, to the glory of Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, who art the Author of peace and Lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us, Thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in Thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of our glorious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and dost promise that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then a Hymn shall be sung, followed by the Doxology, after which the minister shall close the Service with this Benediction:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*



## AN ORDER FOR MORNING OR EVENING SERVICE

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Having taken his place, the congregation also standing, the minister shall begin the Service with one of the following Sentences of Scripture:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *Amen.*

Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall say:

**M.** Let us pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our minds, we beseech Thee, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that, being delivered from every unholy motion of the flesh and spirit, we may perfectly love Thee, with a pure heart and sanctified lips worship Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Responsive Reading.

Hymn.

The Scripture Lesson.

After the Lesson the congregation shall stand and sing the Canticle for the Day, or an appropriate Chant, or the Gloria Patri.

. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

[The Apostles' Creed.]



Then the General Prayer shall be offered, consisting of the following Prayers, or some other suitable Prayer, or a Free Prayer.

M. The Lord be with you:

C. And with thy spirit.

M. Let us pray:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may by Thy protection pass our time in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In goodness art Thou exalted, O Lord, our Father, for ever and ever. We magnify Thee, we praise Thee, we worship Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy bountiful providence, for all the blessings of the present life, and all the hopes of a better life to come. Let the memory of Thy goodness, we beseech Thee, fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness unto our life's end; and let no unworthiness of ours provoke Thee to withhold from us any needed good, seeing that all Thy blessings come not by our desert, but only through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, who hast promised to reveal Thy glory by Jesus Christ among all nations; remember, we beseech Thee, Thy holy Church throughout all the world. Unite all who profess and call themselves Christians in the bond of a holy faith as one body, and so replenish them and us with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may bring forth abundantly the fruits of peace and good works.

And grant that, having persevered in the way of godliness to the end, we may, with prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors, and saints of all ages, come into full communion with Thee and with one another in Thine eternal and glorious kingdom; through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty God, King of kings, and Lord of lords, take under Thy most gracious government and guidance, we beseech Thee, Thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and all others in authority; and so enrich them with heavenly wisdom and grace, that they may attain Thine everlasting favor, and we lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, who art a seasonable refuge in time of trouble; let the prayers of those who, in tribulation or any sort of extremity, cry unto Thee, reach Thy merciful ears, and grant them relief according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions; for the sake of the suffering and sorrow of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Here special prayers may be offered, followed by the Lord's Prayer, in which the people shall join aloud:

**Our Father**, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*



Offering.  
Hymn.  
Sermon.

After the Sermon the congregation shall stand and the minister shall say:

Let us pray:

O God, who didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people by sending unto them the light of Thy Holy Spirit; grant unto us by the same Spirit to have a right understanding of Thy saving truth. Visit, we pray Thee, this congregation with Thy love and favor. Enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; fill our hearts with a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

A Hymn shall now be sung, followed by the Doxology, after which the minister shall close the Service with one of the following Benedictions:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; the Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

## A BRIEF ORDER OF SERVICE

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The minister shall begin the Services with one of the following Sentences of Scripture:

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering and come into His courts: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth. *Amen.*

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. *Amen.*

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. *Amen.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you: where two or three are gathered together in My name, saith the Lord Jesus, there am I in the midst of them. *Amen.*

The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. *Amen.*

And they said unto Him, Abide with us, O Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent; and He went in to tarry with them. *Amen.*

Then the Service shall proceed as follows:



Prayer. Hymn. The Scripture Reading. Gloria, or Hymn of Confession, or Kyrie. Prayer. Offering. Hymn. Sermon. Prayer. Hymn. Doxology.

The minister shall close the Service with one of the following Benedictions:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*

May grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, and from the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, be with you all. *Amen.*

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. *Amen.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God our Saviour, be honor and glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. *Amen.*

## THE LITANY

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To be said kneeling, instead of the General Prayer, on days of penitence.

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**M.** O God, the Father in heaven; have mercy upon us.

**C.** Have mercy upon us.

**M.** O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world; have mercy upon us.

**C.** Have mercy upon us.

**M.** O God, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter; have mercy upon us.

**C.** Have mercy upon us.

**M.** O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, ever one God; have mercy upon us.

**C.** Have mercy upon us.

**M.** Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood.

**C.** Spare us, good Lord.

**M.** From all evil and harm; from the power of sin, and the snares of the devil; from the spirit of the world, and from everlasting death.

**C.** Good Lord, deliver us.

**M.** From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness.

**C.** Good Lord, deliver us.



M. From all impure lusts and desires; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. From lightning, tempest, and earthquake; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from all disasters by land and by water; from battle, and murder, and a violent death.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. From tumult and riot; from sedition and rebellion; from heresy and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy Word and authority.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. By the mystery of Thy holy incarnation; by Thy holy nativity and circumcision; by Thy baptism, fasting, and temptation.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. By Thine agony and bloody sweat; by Thy cross and passion; by Thy precious death and burial; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our wealth; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment.

C. Good Lord, deliver us.

M. We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

C. Son of God, we beseech Thee to hear us.

M. That it may please Thee to keep us in all time of temptation and heaviness; to comfort and help all the

weak-hearted; to raise up them that fall, and finally to beat down Satan under our feet.

C. We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

M. That it may please Thee to succor, help, and comfort all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation.

C. We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

M. That it may please Thee to preserve all travellers and strangers, all women in the perils of child-birth, all sick persons, and young children, and to show Thy pity upon all prisoners and captives.

C. We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

M. That it may please Thee to defend and provide for the fatherless children, and widows, and all that are desolate and oppressed.

C. We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

M. That it may please Thee to have mercy upon all men.

C. We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

M. O Son of God, Redeemer of the world.

C. Have mercy upon us.

M. O Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world;

C. Have mercy upon us.

M. O Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world;

C. Grant us Thy peace.

O God, merciful Father, who despisest not the sighing



of the contrite, nor rejectest the desire of the sorrowful; be favorable to our prayers which in our afflictions that continually oppress us, we pour out before Thee; and graciously hear them, that those things which the craft of the devil or man worketh against us, may be brought to naught, and by the counsel of Thy goodness be dispersed; so that being hurt by no persecutions, we may evermore give thanks unto Thee in Thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may by Thy protection pass our time in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Here special prayers may be offered, followed by the Lord's Prayer, in which the people shall join aloud.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

## THE PREPARATORY SERVICE

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Having taken his place, the congregation also standing, the minister shall begin the Service with this Sentence of Scripture:

The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him. *Amen.*

Then the Service shall proceed as follows:

M. God spake all these words, saying: I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. I. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My Commandments. III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. IV. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. V. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.



VI. Thou shalt not kill. VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery. VIII. Thou shalt not steal. IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

C. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep all these laws.

M. Hear also what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Then the minister shall offer this Prayer, which may be followed by the Litany.

Let us pray:

O Lord God, who didst at the first deliver Thy commandments from the mount which burned with fire, amid blackness, and darkness, and tempest, at which terrible sight even Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake: we thank Thee that this same law is now published unto us from Mt. Zion, through the Mediator of a new and better covenant; and we humbly beseech Thee to put these words into our minds, and write them in our hearts, that we may delight in Thy law after the inward man, and serve Thee in newness of spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Offering, if such be made, shall now be received, a Hymn sung, and the Sermon preached, after which, the minister, addressing the Communicants, shall say:

Beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, when He was about to finish the work of our redemption, by making Himself a sacrifice for our sins upon the cross, solemnly instituted the Holy Sacrament of His own Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of His precious death; the seal of His perpetual presence in the Church by the Holy Ghost; the mystical exhibition of His one offering of Himself made once, but of force always, to put away sin; the pledge of His undying love to His people; and the bond of His living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

It has not been without reason, therefore, that the celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the inmost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. We have to do here, not with outward signs merely, but with the heavenly realities themselves which these signs represent. Our Lord Himself calls the bread His body, and the cup His blood, or the New Testament in His blood.

Being of such a sacred nature it is plain that the table of the Lord can be rightly approached only by those who are of a truly devout, repentant, and believing mind. These holy mysteries are not for the worldly, the irreverent, or the indifferent. All who are impenitent and unbelieving, and who refuse to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, have no right to partake of this table.

If any of you, then, are conscious that you are the willing servants of sin, being without repentance and faith, and yielding yourselves to the power of worldly affections and lusts, we solemnly warn and admonish you, that ye presume not, so long as this is your character, to come to the table of the Lord: for those doing so eat and



drink judgment to themselves; not because they are sinners, but because they are impenitent sinners; not because they are unworthy, but because they eat and drink unworthily, not discerning the Lord's body.

On the other hand, we cordially invite to this table all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of His Church, and who earnestly desire to possess His Spirit and to walk in His steps. To all such the infinitely compassionate Redeemer Himself says: Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Then, if the Confession is to be used, the minister shall continue thus:

Ye then, beloved brethren, who have looked earnestly into your own hearts, and who find in yourselves these good dispositions of penitence and faith, with the sincere desire and purpose of forsaking all sin and following after all Christian holiness, approach with me now to the throne of grace, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Here all shall kneel and say:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we cast ourselves down at Thy feet with deep humiliation and heartfelt penitent grief, in view of our manifold sins. We have sinned against Thee in thought, word, and deed; we have broken Thy holy laws; we have come short of Thy righteousness and glory in all our ways. Righteousness belongeth unto Thee, O Lord, but unto us only confusion of face; but unto Thee, O Lord our God, belong also mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Thee; for Thou, Lord, art good, and

ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Look upon us, therefore, O righteous and holy Father, with an eye of pity and compassion, as we now humble ourselves, with sincere confession, before the throne of Thy heavenly grace; and for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, speak pardon and peace to our souls. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, according as we hope in Thee. And with the full pardon of our past sins, be pleased also to quicken us, we beseech Thee, in the way of righteousness, and uphold us with Thy free Spirit; that we may walk worthy henceforth of the vocation wherewith we are called, and ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall stand and say:

Hearken now unto the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all that repent and believe. As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Wherefore, beloved brethren, those of you who have truly turned to God with hearty repentance and sincere faith, may assuredly believe that your sins are forgiven in heaven, through the perfect sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Or, instead of the foregoing, the following may be used:

Wherefore, Dearly Beloved, that you may profess, as in the presence of God, your desire to approach the Lord's table worthily, give answer to the following questions:



**M.** Do you humbly acknowledge your manifold sins, heartily repent of them, and put all your trust in the mercy of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord?

**Ans.** I do.

**M.** Do you truly believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; do you renew your faith in Him as your Lord and Saviour; and do you look to Him alone for forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life?

**Ans.** I do.

**M.** Do you sincerely promise, henceforth, to be obedient to the Holy Spirit, so as to hate and forsake all manner of sin, to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily after holiness of heart and life?

**Ans.** I do.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, our heavenly Father, Who hast promised to hear us when we call upon Thee in the name of Thy dear Son; fulfill now, we beseech Thee, in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; that being delivered from our sins, cleansed from an evil conscience, and strengthened by Thy Spirit, we may pass our days in the peace of a holy life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The congregation shall now stand and sing the Doxology, after which the minister shall close the Service with this Benediction:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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The Sacrament of the Holy Communion shall be administered in every congregation at least twice a year, and, if possible, four times.

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Having taken his place, the congregation also standing, the minister shall begin the Service as follows:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

[Here the Kyrie may be sung.]

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, who by the blood of Thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all; cleanse our minds, we beseech Thee, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we, Thy redeemed people, drawing near unto Thee in this Holy Supper, with a true heart and undefiled conscience, in full assurance of faith, may offer unto Thee an acceptable sacrifice in righteousness, and worthily magnify Thy great and glorious name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Then a Hymn shall be sung, followed by the reading of a Lesson from the Holy Scriptures, after which the congregation shall stand and sing the Gloria Patri.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Then the Apostles' Creed shall be recited:

I believe in God the Father Almighty: Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin



Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and the Life Everlasting. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall offer the Collect for the Day, the Festival Prayer, and the following Prayer:

Let us pray:

O God, merciful Father, vouchsafe unto us, we humbly beseech Thee, the continual help of Thy grace, that we may acknowledge and confess Thine incarnate Son as our true and only Lord and Saviour, and that receiving Him with childlike faith we may ever feed on His precious body and blood as the true meat and drink of our souls unto everlasting life. *Amen.*

The Service shall now proceed as follows: The Offering shall be received, a Hymn sung, and the Sermon preached. Then the minister, having uncovered the bread and the wine, shall address the communicants, saying:

Dearly Beloved in the Lord: All ye who do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who are in love and charity with your neighbors, and who purpose to lead a better life, by following the commandments of God and walking henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with reverence, faith, and thanksgiving, and take to your comfort the Supper of the Lord. Let this bread and this wine be to you the signs and seals of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost. Before the throne of your heavenly Father make

your humble confession of sin, consecrate your lives to Christian service, and pray for strength to do and to bear the holy and blessed will of God.

Here all shall kneel and say:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who dost admit Thy people unto such wonderful communion, that partaking of the Body and Blood of Thy dear Son, they should dwell in Him, and He in them; we draw nigh unto Thee under an humble sense of our unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Thy righteous law, in thought, in word, and in deed. We are deeply grieved, O Lord, for having offended against Thee; we condemn both ourselves and our sins with unfeigned penitence; for we have come short of Thy righteousness and glory in all our ways. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us all our sins; purify us, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, from all inward uncleanness; enable us heartily to forgive others, as we beseech Thee to forgive us; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall stand and say:

Hearken now unto the comforting words of our Lord Jesus Christ to all who truly turn to Him. Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. Wherefore, beloved, I commend you to God and to the Word of His



grace, which is able to build you up and grant you an inheritance among them that are sanctified forever. *Amen.*

Then, the congregation standing, the minister and people shall say responsively:

M. The Lord be with you:

C. And with thy spirit.

M. Lift up your hearts:

C. We lift them up unto the Lord.

M. Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God:

C. It is meet and right so to do.

Then the minister shall say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord our God, for all Thy mercies and favors to us, known and unknown.

But most of all, we praise Thee, the Father everlasting, for the gift of Thine adorable, true, and only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by His appearing hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. We bless Thee for His holy incarnation; for His life on earth; for His precious sufferings and death upon the cross; for His resurrection from the dead; and for His glorious ascension to Thy right hand. We bless Thee for the giving of the Holy Ghost; for the institution of the Church; for the means of grace; for the hope of everlasting life; and for the glory which shall be brought unto us at the coming and in the kingdom of Thy dear Son.

Thee, mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify and

praise. With patriarchs and prophets, apostles and martyrs; with the holy Church throughout all the world; with the heavenly Jerusalem, the joyful assembly and congregation of the first-born on high; with the innumerable company of angels round about Thy throne, the heaven of heavens, and all the powers therein; we worship and adore Thy glorious name, joining in the song of the Cherubim and Seraphim:

Here all shall sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Then the minister shall say:

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread [*here he shall take some of the bread into his hands*], and when He had given thanks, He brake it [*here he shall break the bread*], and said, Take, eat: this is My body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner also He took the cup [*here he shall take the cup into his hands*], when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Let us pray:

Sanctify by Thy Spirit, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, these elements of bread and wine, that being set apart now from a common to a sacred and mystical use, they may exhibit and represent to us with true effect the Body and Blood of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, so that in the



use of them we may be made, through the power of the Holy Ghost, to partake really and truly of His blessed life, whereby only we can be saved from death, and raised to immortality at the last day. *Amen.*

And be pleased, now O most merciful Father, graciously to receive this memorial of the blessed sacrifice of Thy Son; in union with which we here offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, the reasonable sacrifice of our own persons; consecrating ourselves, on the altar of the Gospel, in soul and body, property and life, to Thy most blessed service and praise. Make us accepted in the Beloved; and let His name be as a pure and holy incense, through which all our worship may come up before Thee, as the odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. *Amen.*

O God, who dost bless the unity of Thy people in the fellowship of service; manifest Thyself amongst us in the fulness of Thy love. Give us grace to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away from us all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord. In all our relations make us humble and meek, forbearing one another in love, and endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. *Amen.*

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; we rejoice before Thee in the blessed communion of all Thy saints, wherein Thou givest us also to have part. We praise Thee for the holy fellowship of patriarchs and prophets, apostles and martyrs, and the whole glorious company of the redeemed of all ages who have died in the Lord, and now live with Him forevermore. We give

thanks unto Thee for Thy great grace and many gifts bestowed on those who have thus gone before us in the way of salvation, and by whom we are now compassed about, in our Christian course, as a cloud of witnesses looking down upon us from the heavenly world. Enable us to follow their faith, that we may enter at death into their joy; and so abide with them in rest and peace, till both they and we shall reach our common consummation of redemption and bliss in the glorious resurrection of the last day. *Amen.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion shall now take place. During the singing of a sacramental Hymn, the people shall present themselves at the communion table, reverently and devoutly standing. The officiating minister shall first partake of the communion in both kinds himself, then administer it to his assistants, and then should proceed with their help to administer it to the people, giving first the bread and then the wine. During the distribution appropriate passages of Scripture may be recited. After the people assembled at the table have communed, the minister shall dismiss them with one of the following blessings:

May the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you, each one, in body, soul, and spirit, unto everlasting life. *Amen.* Depart in peace.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.* Depart in peace.

May grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father,



and from the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and from the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, be with you all. *Amen.* Depart in peace.

When all have communed, the congregation shall stand and the minister shall say:

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, we give Thee most hearty thanks for the great goodness Thou hast shown toward us at this time, in vouchsafing to feed us, through these sacred elements, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are members of the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and we most humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as shall please Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

[Hymn, Te Deum Laudamus, Doxology.]

Then the minister shall close the Service with this Benediction:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*

## A BRIEF COMMUNION SERVICE

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After the Sermon, the minister shall uncover the bread and wine, and address the communicants, saying:

Dearly Beloved in the Lord: God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The more fully to show forth this promise of the Gospel, to seal unto us the remission of our sins, and to assure us of eternal life, He hath graciously added to that promise this blessed sacrament of the crucified body and shed blood of His dear Son, as the certain sign and covenant pledge of His abounding grace.

The Scripture warns all who live in sin not to profane this holy table. This, however, is not intended to exclude penitent persons, but only such as continue in sin without repentance. Wherefore, examine yourselves, to know whether you truly repent of your sins, and whether trusting in God's mercy and seeking your whole salvation in Jesus Christ, you are resolved to follow holiness and to live in peace and love with all men.

Another design of the holy Supper is that we may be knit together in true brotherly love as members of one body, for we, being incorporated with Christ by true faith, are through brotherly love to be as one body, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who first loved us, that we might truly love one another.

Here the congregation shall rise and continue standing until the consecration is ended:

Let us pray:

Most holy and merciful God, our heavenly Father, we



would on this solemn occasion draw nigh to Thee in remembrance of Thy Son. We would remember, O our God, the gracious beauty of His life, His obedience unto death, and His victory over the grave. Quicken our hearts by these sacred memories, O blessed Lord, until we feel it no task to serve Thee, no burden to carry our cross, but a delight and joy to do Thy will and work. By Thy Holy Spirit shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, and as a result of this communion, may we cheerfully take up our cross, deny ourselves, and ever keep in constant fellowship with Thee in all our life. Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, with the forgiveness of all our sins, for Christ our Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Then the minister shall proceed thus:

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed [*here he shall take some of the bread into his hands*], took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it [*here he shall break the bread*], and said, Take, eat, this is My Body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner also [*here he shall take the cup into his hands*], He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood; this do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Here the minister shall offer the following Prayer, the people joining in the Lord's Prayer, after which the congregation shall be seated.

Let us pray:

Sanctify by Thy Spirit, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, these elements of bread and wine, that being set apart now from a common to a sacred and mystical use, they may exhibit and represent to us with true effect the body and blood of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, so that in the



use of them we may be made, through the power of the Holy Ghost, to partake really and truly of His blessed life, whereby only we can be saved from death, and raised to immortality at the last day.

And be pleased now, O most merciful Father, graciously to receive this memorial of the blessed sacrifice of Thy Son; in union with which we here offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, the reasonable sacrifice of our own persons; consecrating ourselves, on the altar of the gospel, in soul and body, property and life, to Thy most blessed service and praise. Make us accepted in the Beloved; and let His name be as a pure and holy incense, through which all our worship may come up before Thee, as the odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. *Amen.*

The minister shall now invite all Christian people to commune, then a Hymn shall be sung, and the bread and wine distributed. During the distribution appropriate passages of Scripture may be recited. Each table of communicants shall be dismissed with one of the following Blessings:

May the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you each one in body, soul, and spirit, unto everlasting life. *Amen.* Depart in peace.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.* Depart in peace.



May grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, and from the Holy Ghost the Comforter, be with you all. *Amen.* Depart in peace.

When all have communed, the congregation shall stand and the minister shall say:

Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, Who hast called us to sit in heavenly places at this feast of love; we give Thee hearty thanks for the privilege and blessing of another sacred communion; and we most humbly beseech Thee to so constrain us by the love of Christ that we may ever show forth Thy praise. Remember also, O Lord, all those with whom we are one in the body of Christ, the multitudes of every name who are joined with us in one household of faith, that the peace of God which has come to us here may come also to them. Rejoicing in the communion of saints, we bless Thy holy name, O God of our fathers, for all Thy servants who are now at rest with Thee. Make us one with them in the same holy fellowship. And we pray that as we have been partakers of Thy holy communion this day, so too we may all at last be prepared to share in eternal communion with Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

A Hymn shall now be sung, followed by the Doxology, after which the minister shall close the Service with this Benediction:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*